Cheshire Cricket Board







Online Club Development Forum - November 2026



Tonight's Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Cheshire Cricket in 2026
- Affiliation
- Accreditation (Clubmark)
- Club Development Planning
- Coach Development
- Officials
- Young Cricket Collective
- Women's and Girls Cricket
- Funding and Facilities
- Youth Cricket – National Programmes, Schools
- Grounds Development
- Disability and Inclusion
- AOB (What's next)

Please put your microphones on MUTE and place any questions in the CHAT box

Cheshire Cricket Board 2026 - it all adds up

Leading, influencing and inspiring our cricketing communities

Schools

30344 Children

749 School Teams Competed in **121** School Competitions



National Programmes

4073 Children in **168** Programmes

53 Bursary Programmes



Clubs and Communities

109 Affiliated Clubs

Clubmark Accredited Clubs **95**

1434 Total Teams

Teams competed in CCB Communities Indoor & Outdoor Leagues **28**



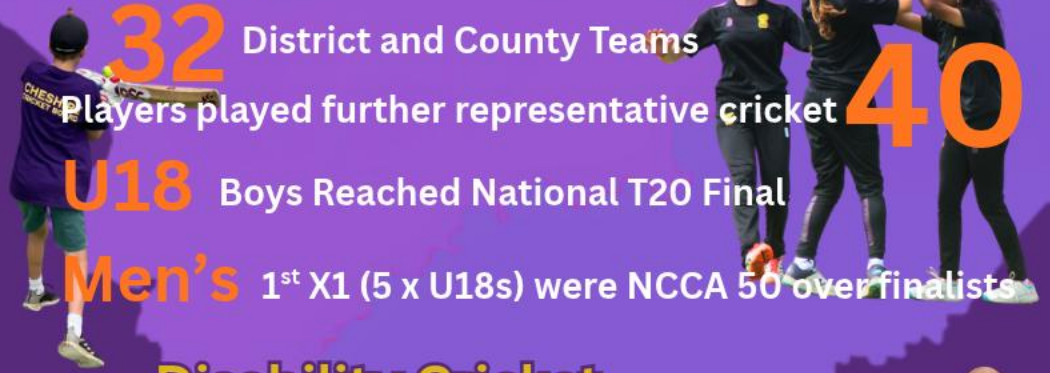
Pathway and Performance

32 District and County Teams

Players played further representative cricket **40**

U18 Boys Reached National T20 Final

Men's 1st X1 (5 x U18s) were NCCA 50 over finalists



Women & Girl's

152 Women's Teams

Girl's Teams **114**

1196 Girl's in National Programmes



Disability Cricket

5 County Disabled Teams

10 ECB Disability Champion Clubs

7 Super 1s Hubs



Coach Development & Officials

57 ECB Core Coaches

81 ECB Foundation Coaches

39 ECB Support Coaches

138 Umpires & Scores Trained



Club Affiliation in 2027

Affiliation is the formal process by which a club becomes part of the organised cricket community overseen by ECB, the NGB for cricket in England and Wales.

Clubs affiliate by paying a small fee to their County Board, for which they gain access to a wide range of benefits. Affiliating clubs are asked to confirm their commitment to following certain rules and standards set by the ECB, as well as any (local) County Board requirements.

Why Affiliate?

- Eligible to apply for ECB Accreditation
- Club development support and guidance
- Courses and qualifications, with bursaries
- Management systems, tools and resources
- Access to competitions and club programmes
- Grant funding and financial support (subject to meeting requirements)
- Community events and celebrations
- Visit the CCB website for a full list of benefits



HowzStat! 🏏

In 2026, Cheshire became the first county in the country to achieve 100% of affiliated clubs signing the ECB Terms and Conditions! 🙌

A huge thank you to all our clubs for your support. Let's work together to make it 100% again in 2027!



What does my club need to do?

ECB aspire to ensure all clubs provide a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment. The **Terms and Conditions of Affiliation** support this process, enabling clubs to demonstrate their commitment to key game-wide policies.

Clubs sign the T&Cs via their own **Play-Cricket site** (available in Jan 2027). As part of the process, clubs are asked to *self-declare* they are compliant with the following:

- Have adopted ECB policies (within constitution)
- Enrolled on the Safe Hands Management System
- Hold a bank account in the club's name
- Held an AGM in the last 12 months and have key officers (including Club Safeguarding Officer) in place
- Have the correct levels of insurance*

Note – It should be the club chair or secretary who signs the agreement on behalf of your club, please make sure they have full administrator rights on Play-Cricket

Further Support: Visit the ECB website to access the Club Affiliation Toolkit

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Summary and next steps

Clubs are encouraged to review the ECB Affiliation Guide and get in touch if you have any questions. Some **key actions** to take ahead of the 2027 season:

- Sign the T&Cs on Play-Cricket – Jan onwards
- Pay the annual affiliation fee* - End of June
- Adhere to CCB requirements (below)

* Affiliation fees (£25-£75) for clubs competing in the CCCL will be collected by the league. For all other clubs, payment should be made upon receipt of an invoice from the CCCC Treasurer.



CCB Criteria for Affiliating Clubs:

1. Regular attendance at Club Development Forums
2. Promotion of CCB / ECB activities and initiatives
3. Return the annual Club Participation Tracker

IMPLEMENTATION METHODS

Membership Forms
Add a clause to your joining paperwork e.g. **"By joining [Club Name], you agree to comply with the ECB Anti-Discrimination Regulations, General Conduct Regulations, Recreational Conduct Regulations, and Safeguarding Regulations. You accept that each of [RCB name] and the ECB/Cricket Regulator can take action to enforce these Regulations, as applicable."**

Communications
Include reminders in emails/newsletters about regulatory responsibilities. See the Club Affiliation Toolkit for suggested templates.

Notice Boards
Post notices in high-traffic areas:
- Changing rooms
- Club entrance
- Social and spectator areas



Club Accreditation

2027 marks the beginning of the new ECB Club Accreditation scheme, replacing the former 'Clubmark' qualification.

- Existing Clubmark clubs (95 out of 109) will be invited to apply for accreditation when the window opens in early January.
- 2026 Pilot scheme clubs – hold accreditation for 2 more years

How to apply

Clubs must first be affiliated (sign the T&Cs) and then they will get access to the Accreditation facility on Play-Cricket – *note this replaces the 'Clubmark Portal' which will be shortly be decommissioned.*

- Clubs upload their 'evidence' onto Play Cricket before the application window closes at the end of April.
- ECB review all submissions centrally and confirm each club's accreditation (or share a list of any outstanding actions).
- CCB staff will be available to support throughout the process.

Accreditation forms part of ECB's wider Thriving Clubs, Connected Communities strategy, which aims to build a more connected and coherent approach to club development.

Accreditation Evidence checklist

Several of the items below are natural fits for your club's AGM. Getting these reviewed and signed off during the off-season means you can apply for accreditation as soon as the window opens.

Requirement	Evidenced by
An 'open' constitution adopting key ECB regulations and policies – signed and dated at AGM	Upload to Play-Cricket
Safeguarding Policy statement – signed and dated	Upload to Play-Cricket
Committee structure in place including Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Club Safeguarding Officer	About Us section on Play-Cricket up to date
AGM minutes dated within last 12 months	Upload to Play-Cricket
Bank statement in clubs name (last 6 months)	Upload to Play-Cricket
Insurance certificate / schedule – showing minimum £5 public liability / £10 employer's liability	Upload to Play-Cricket, *Free Howden's Cover*
Compliant on Safe Hands Management System – profile up to date and key personnel (captains, managers etc) hold valid DBS checks	Safe Hands Management System
At least one active playing offer	Teams/section updated on Play-Cricket / SHMS





Support from CCB / ECB

The 2027 ECB Club Accreditation process is more streamlined than previous Clubmark versions, with a reduced amount of evidence required.

Once accredited, clubs will retain their status for three years, although their accreditation level may change depending on the depth of their playing offer.

County Cricket Boards (CCBs) are no longer responsible for assessing clubs (ECB do this centrally). However, we are keen to support all Cheshire clubs through the process and can offer help in the following areas:

- **Constitution review** – A summary review against the ECB checklist to help ensure compliance, including any mandatory clauses required for accreditation.
- **Safe Hands review** – Check your club's status and identify any outstanding actions, including DBS checks.
- **Wider document review** – Review other key club documents on request, ahead of your final submission.
- **Supporting resources** – Access to templates and further guidance, including the ECB Model Constitution and the latest ECB Safeguarding Policy Statement.

Next steps: What your club can do to prepare?

- Review your club constitution against the ECB Checklist – *use the Model Constitution for guidance.*
- Update your club safeguarding policy statement using the new ECB template (2026 version).
- Adopt both of the above at your AGM, where they can be reviewed and signed off alongside your other business.
- Post AGM, update your SHMS club profile and the Officials section (About Us) page on Play-Cricket to reflect any changes.
- Make sure your Chair or Secretary hold 'main administrator" rights on Play-Cricket. *Give main administrator access to your club's Accreditation lead too (if not chair or sec).*
- Download any documents you want to keep from the Club Accreditation Portal before it is decommissioned.



Key Dates

Pre-Christmas 2026: New accreditation and affiliation functionality becomes available on Play-Cricket.

Further details and guidance will be shared in advance.

Early January 2027: Accreditation window opens.

30 April 2027: Accreditation window closes.





Thriving Clubs – Development Planning

In 2025, ECB launched the Thriving Clubs, Connected Communities strategy, which aims to build a more connected and coherent approach to club development.

With over 5,000 clubs in England and Wales – challenging for ECB (or county boards) to provide 24/7 support.

ECB want to incentivise and prioritise those clubs who want to help themselves. This can be evidenced through:

- Club Self-Assessment and Analysis
- Club Development Plans

Information from the above can help inform clubs, CCBs and ECB around the game's current and future priorities so we can commit our time and resources in the most appropriate way.

The aim is spend less time on compliance and more time on game development. The greater the level insight we have, the more focussed our support can be.

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Formula for Thriving Clubs

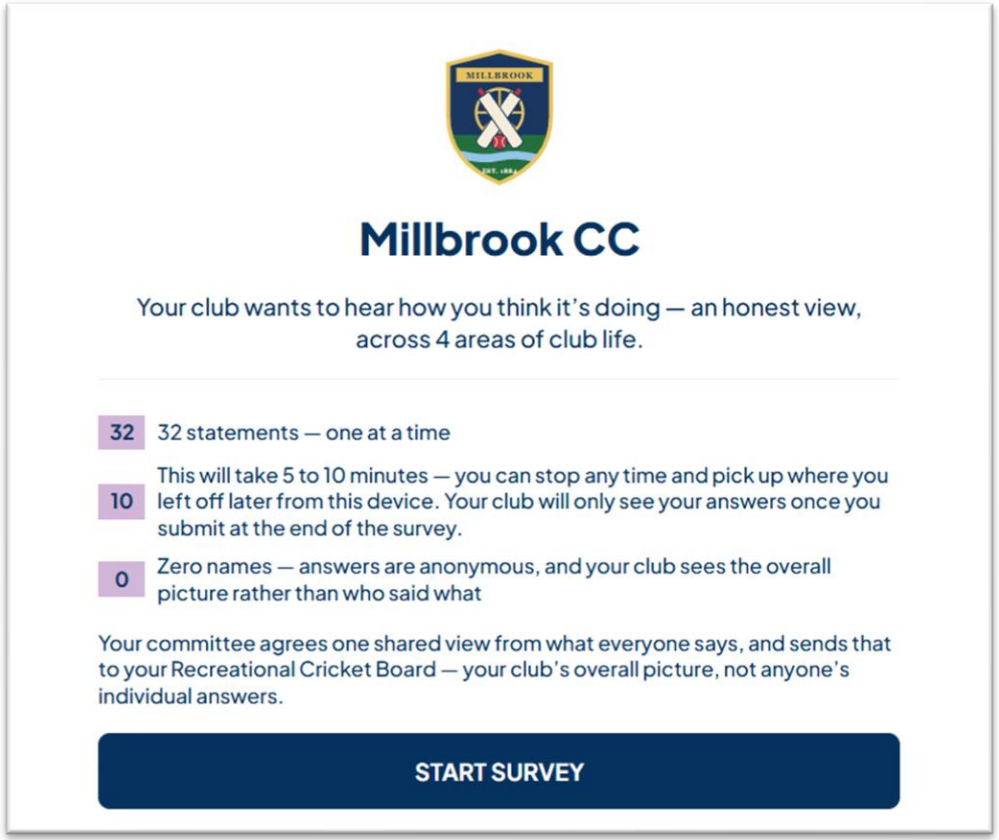


Playing Offer + People + Places + Practices = Thriving Clubs

1. **Listen**
   Gain Buy-in
2. **Prioritise**
   Provide Direction
3. **Mobilise**
   Generate Responsibility

ECB

Club Self-Assessment and Analysis



The club self-assessment survey (see above) is still in development and should be available later this month.

Don't ignore any existing club surveys - you may have other questions you want to explore!

The **Club Self-Assessment** tool is a members' survey that can be used to generate feedback on your club's current offer across the 4 key development pillars: *playing offer, people, places and practices*.

The survey takes about 10 mins, and respondents* are asked to rank each statement on a scale from 'not in place' to 'thriving'.

Responses (including comments) are collated and can viewed via an online dashboard, which highlights strengths and potential areas for future development.

Why use the tool?

- Free to all affiliated clubs - provides an interactive platform to collect honest feedback from members.
- Dashboard gives a full breakdown of responses across the 4 pillars – you can track and monitor progress year by year.
- Generates ideas for future projects and key themes to include in your wider Club Development Plan
- An evidence base for funding applications (to ECB and other bodies) eg facility developments that members wish to see
- Headline figures available to CCB, allowing us to provide focussed and tailored support for your priority areas

Millbrook CC — Self-Assessment 2026

COPY LINK

2026 — Sent 18 November 2025

Self-assessment is a way for a club to reflect on its development, in consultation between their committee and the membership. The club considers a set of statements from the ECB about how a cricket club can be run, and agrees how true each one is for their club.

This is Millbrook CC's assessment for 2026, across four areas: Playing Offer, People, Places and Practices. The grade reflects an overall picture of where the club is in its journey, but it's deliberately not meant to say whether or not Millbrook CC is a 'good' club.

Your development grade Where the average of the ratings your club agreed across all 4 areas placed you.

1 Not in place	2 Starting	3 Developing	4 Advancing	5 Thriving
do not do, or activity is very limited	we do in some way but is informal or inconsistent	some clear activity or processes in place, but they are not consistent or fully embedded	this is working well and applied across the club	embedded and regularly improved
		2026		

Area	2026 Rating (1 – 5)	Avg rating	Grade
All 4 areas	How you rated the 32 statements: 6 · 8 · 11 · 6	3.5	3 Developing
› Playing Offer	1 · 4 · 3	4.3	4 Advancing
› People	1 · 4 · 2 · 1	2.4	2 Starting
› Places	2 · 3 · 1 · 2	3.4	3 Developing
› Practices	2 · 5 · 1	3.9	4 Advancing

Each area's bar counts the statements in it at each rating, as a share of the statements it holds. Open an area to see the rating your club agreed for every statement in it — a square at that rating on the 1 to 5 scale.

25 members answered your survey that year.

Club Development Plans

Development Plans are no longer a pre-requisite of Club Accreditation, but they remain crucial documents that can rally the whole community behind your club's overarching vision.

How many clubs can honestly say they have a 'live' development plan which is monitored on a regular basis?

Do you have a method to track (and celebrate) progress against your key goals or seek support to overcome challenges?

ECB Whole Club Development Plan

Earlier this year, CCB delivered a series of 'whole club development' workshops, attended by 25 affiliated clubs.

The workshops shared a simple '5 step process' for building (or updating) Club development plans – highlighting the support available from ECB and CCB.

Feedback from the sessions very positive, with a number of clubs establishing 'project groups' who will co-design their new/updated plans ahead of the 2027 season.







Whole Club Plans – what's involved?

Clubs seeking support with the production (or evolution) of their Development Plans can benefit from ECB's 'whole club' approach.

This follows a 5-step plan as follows:

PART 1	PART 2	PART 3	PART 4	PART 5
Clubs attend the Launch Workshop hosted by the RCB to learn about the CDP process & tools	Clubs form or finalise their project teams with diverse skills, perspectives & roles at the club	Project teams run Workshop 1 to agree vison, values, purpose & key club connections	Project teams run Workshop 2 to agree strategic priorities, action plans, owners & enablers	Project teams finalise CDP & review with RCB, request support & set up progress tracking
LAUNCH	TEAM	WORKSHOP 1	WORKSHOP 2	REVIEW

CCB aim to run additional launch workshops throughout 2027, subject to demand. There is no strict timescale for completion of plans and our staff can provide support throughout the process.

Participating clubs have access to some excellent supporting resources including workshop slides, development plan templates, progress tracking tables, club case studies and much more.

Want to know more? Please contact your DCO or Clubs' Manager Gareth Moorhouse to discuss your needs

Further support from CCB and ECB

To complement the Club Forums, CCB offer 1:1 development meetings for all affiliated clubs.

Where available, we will use data from club audits (self assessment, participation trackers) and Club Development Plans to form a meaningful agenda tailored to your specific needs.

If you wish to arrange a 1:1 catch up, please contact your local Development and Coaching Officer.

ECB Resources

Clubs are encouraged to visit the ECB Cricket Collective website where they can access a wide range of supporting resources linked to the 4 development pillars.

Examples include:

- Affiliation Toolkit and templates
- Club Case Studies
- Guide to Incorporation / Insurance
- Girls Accelerator Toolkit
- Young Cricket Collective guide











Coach Development Courses

A busy start to the winter, with lots of courses being delivered including a number of 'local' sessions.

CCB would love to continue this approach, but this is reliant on strong attendance, otherwise we will need to return to 'central' venues for the 2027/28 programme.

If you have any volunteers looking to become qualified coaches or to move onto the next level, please direct them to the CCB website.

ECB Foundation Coach

Three Foundation (Level 1) courses have been delivered to date in Trafford, Stockport and Hartford.

One session (Wilmslow) still available to book via CCB website, with **10 places remaining**.

CCB also exploring other venues in Tameside and Wirral for 2027.

ECB Core Coach

The ECB Core Coach (Level 2) programme is now in full swing, with the course at The Grange (Hartford) already underway.

Two further sessions at Wilmslow High School now available to book. Prospective candidates should fill out the expression of interest forms to apply:

- Cohort 17 (9/1, 23/1, 6/2, 20/2) – 11 places remaining EOI
- Cohort 18 (16/1, 30/1, 12/2, 20/2) – 13 places remaining EOI

CCB exploring further Core Coach options from February, including two 'Aspire' courses (one in East, one in West).

Aspire are Core Coach courses for candidates working within the women's and girls' game. Click here to complete the EOI.

Bursaries (up to 100%) are available for eligible candidates attending ECB Coach Development courses, so please check before booking.

NB) More than 50% of our annual bursary budget already allocated, so get your applications in ASAP





ECB Support Coach and CPD

ECB Support Coach aims to give learners (aged 16+) the knowledge, skills and confidence to support qualified coaches – *cannot lead sessions independently.*

CCB aim to deliver 4 Support Coach courses (North, East, South, West) in the build up to new season. If any clubs would like to host (ideally 5 candidates) then please contact your local DCO. **Cost £50.**

Continuous Learning Offer

ECB have developed a series of (online) micro learning sessions for club coaches:

- Neuroinclusive Coaching - Register
- Creative Belonging - Register
- Practice design (STEP framework) – Coming soon
- Planning for player development – Coming soon

ECB Pace Bowling Workshop with Andy Pick – Sunday 29th November - https://booking.ecb.co.uk/yBo8wl

Cheshire Coaches Association Conference – Saturday 27th February – Save the Date!



Click here to access the UTC Expression of Interest.
Please reach out if you can host a USME Roadshow

Officials Courses

CCB are hosting an **ECB Umpire Course (UTC)** on Saturday 21st November at Wilmslow High School.

Details: Practical course for candidates aged 14+; cost £70 (50% refunded after umpiring in 5 fixtures)

We aim to deliver further UTC courses over the next 12 months, alongside informal 'Umpiring and Scoring Made Easy' (USME) roadshows. *Draft schedule:*

Course Type	When	Location
USME	Mon 30th November	Christleton CC
UTC	Jan/Feb	West
USME	Feb	East
UTC	March	East
USME	March	South
UTC	April	South
USME	April	North
UTC	May / June	Mid
UTC	August / Sept	TBC

UMPIRING PATHWAYS

The following diagram shows the Umpiring Pathways and associated competitions

	Level 6	Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	National Panel 2	Professional Umpiring Team
Men's Cricket	All Junior, non-County Cricket & Social cricket	All other levels of Open Age Competition	Highest level County Feeder League Competition	ECB Premier Leagues (or equivalent)	NCCA, Professional 2nd XI Competitions	County Champs, One Day Cup, T20 Blast, Hundred
Women's Cricket	All Junior, non-County Cricket & Social cricket	All softball cricket competitions, Junior hardball competitions (Pairs)	Hardball leagues, County Junior Hardball	County Senior, County Age Groups, County Hardball Premier Leagues	Tier 2 One Day Cup, T20 Blast, Tier 1 Academy	Tier 1 One Day Cup, T20 Blast, Hundred

Officials Courses

Cheshire ACO aim to host scoring CPD courses at Macclesfield CC on Sundays 14th and 21st March. Topics will include:

- PCS Pro and Scoring Techniques
- DLS and Linear Scoring

Booking links are not yet live but candidates can complete the Expression of Interest Form or contact Cheshire ACO Scorer's Officer Sandra Mason

Online Officials Courses

ECB have developed a range of free online officiating courses to support grass roots clubs:

- Online Scoring course – Ages 14+
- Online Umpiring course – Ages 13+

Want to be a panel umpire in 2027?

If you know of any qualified umpires who would like to be considered for the Cheshire County Cricket League appointments, please contact Martin Roberts.



INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to confirm that, after consultation with scorers across the game, we are launching a new education and development pathway.

This pathway is designed to provide clarity as to what is expected of scorers at all levels of the game, with structured learning opportunities being provided to support scorers' development.

The diagram below shows the different levels of the ECB Scoring Pathway:









ECB Young Cricket Collective

The Young Cricket Collective is a national volunteering scheme for 14–18-year-olds who want to make a difference in their club and community.

Candidates complete modules in coaching, officiating, club development and grounds development.

More than 100 children from Cheshire clubs took part in the scheme in 2026. Those who completed their online logbooks were invited to a celebration event at Old Trafford in early August.

CCB Plans for 2027

- CCB will run YCC training indoors before the season (dates TBC).
- Children will have access to ECB's online YCC Platform to record and evidence their volunteering
- New CCB Volunteer database – candidates will be linked to further opportunities including umpiring at Festivals, next steps in coaching journey etc

CHESHIRE CRICKET

Women's and Girls Cricket

As we reflect on an incredible year for women's and girls' cricket across England and Wales, we wanted to take a moment to share some of the incredible outcomes..

💜 More than 125,000 girls picked up a bat and ball on Schools Cricket Day.

💜 A record 11,055 girls' fixtures were played across England and Wales.

💜 Participation reached new heights, making 2026 another record-breaking year for girls' cricket.

💜 £5 million was invested in women's and girls' facilities, helping to create sustainable opportunities and ensuring that the legacy of a home World Cup will support the long-term growth of the game.





2026 Successes in Cheshire

We've also enjoyed an incredibly successful 2026 across Cheshire, with significant growth in the women's and girls' game.

Key highlights include:

- 1,168 girls participating in National Programmes.
- 156 girls' teams entering competitions, 22 more than in 2025.
- 77 women's sections and 58 girls' sections, compared to 71 and 34 respectively at the end of 2025 – a 70% increase in girls' sections.
- 152 women's teams and 114 girls' teams recording fixtures on Play-Cricket, increases of 28% and 48% respectively.
- 1,365 women's and girls' fixtures recorded, up 336 on 2025.
- More coaches supported and mentored within the women's and girls' game than ever before.

Our focus for 2027 is to build on this fantastic progress, continuing to grow participation and ensure provision is sustainable for the future.

How to get involved in 2027

Join the growing number of Cheshire clubs creating opportunities for women and girls to play cricket.

Case Study: Turning ambition into action

This summer, we supported a number of clubs to establish girls' cricket through:

- Eight weeks of targeted Dynamos coaching via our Girls' Dynamos Bursary Programme.
- 20 hours of coach and volunteer development through Metro Bank-funded support.
- Additional coaching support at women's and girls' sessions.
- Club Development Planning and ongoing guidance.

Every club supported through the programme completed girls' fixtures in 2026, with all expressing an interest in entering girls' league cricket in 2027.

Interested in developing your own women's and girls' section? Contact our team to explore the support, funding and expertise available to help make it happen.



Click here to access the ECB Girls Accelerator Toolkit

CGCL DIVISIONS STRUCTURE*

CCB Ran

- **U15 GIRLS HARDBALL** — EAST, WEST
- **U13 GIRLS HARDBALL** — ONE GROUP
- **U13 GIRLS SOFTBALL** — EAST, WEST
- **U11 GIRLS SOFTBALL** — EAST, WEST, WIRRAL
- **U9 GIRLS SOFTBALL** — EAST, WEST

CUP COMPETITIONS

- U11 SOFTBALL CUP
- U13 SOFTBALL CUP
- U13 HARDBALL CUP
- U15 HARDBALL CUP

IN 2026 THE CGCL PROVIDED CRICKET FOR 74 GIRL'S TEAMS

*REGIONAL GROUPINGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE FOR 2027 DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF TEAMS ENTERED.

CWCL DIVISIONS STRUCTURE*

LeagueCommitte Ran

DIVISION 1
40 OVERS
- ONE GROUP

DIVISION 2
40 OVERS
- ONE GROUP

DIVISION 3
30 OVERS
- EAST GEOGRAPHICAL GROUPS
- WEST GEOGRAPHICAL GROUPS

DIVISION 4
20 OVERS
- EAST GEOGRAPHICAL GROUPS
- WEST GEOGRAPHICAL GROUPS
- SOUTH/ EAST GEOGRAPHICAL GROUPS

CCB Ran

DIVISION 5
HARDBALL PAIRS
- EAST GEOGRAPHICAL GROUPS
- WEST GEOGRAPHICAL GROUPS

DIVISION 6
SOFTBALL OUT=OUT
- EAST GEOGRAPHICAL GROUPS
- WEST GEOGRAPHICAL GROUPS

DIVISION 7
SOFTBALL PAIRS
- EAST GEOGRAPHICAL GROUPS
- WEST GEOGRAPHICAL GROUPS
- WIRRAL GEOGRAPHICAL GROUPS
- SOUTH GEOGRAPHICAL GROUPS

T20 & CUP COMPETITIONS

DIVISION 1–4

T20 CHAMPIONSHIP (LEAGUE)
KNOCKOUT CUP
DEVELOPMENT KNOCKOUT CUP

DIVISION 5–7

SOFTBALL KNOCKOUT CUP

IN 2026 THE CWCL PROVIDED CRICKET FOR 116 WOMEN'S TEAMS!

*REGIONAL GROUPINGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE FOR 2027 DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF TEAMS ENTERED.

Key dates and booking forms

The Expression of Interest links for the (CCB-led) Women's and Girl's leagues are now available online.

We anticipate further growth in teams, so please note the respective entry deadlines to give league officials plenty of time to organise the fixture schedule.

- Girls' Leagues EOI
- Women's Hardball Pairs and Softball EOI

In addition to these playing offers, keep you eyes peeled on our social media, WhatsApp groups and website for information on indoor leagues, indoor festivals and coaching sessions such as hardball transition sessions.

Key Contacts

For any information on leagues or playing offers, contact Kerry Hartnett.

If your club is interested in setting up a girl's section or you have any other questions, please contact W&Gs Manager Jess Lewis



ECB County Grants Fund







Since the County Grants Fund launched in 2022, CCB has invested more than **£836K** into affiliated clubs, developing and improving cricket facilities across the county.

We are encouraging clubs to start discussing and planning their projects now ahead of the 2027 scheme opening on 1 February. Key information:

- Clubs can apply for grants of up to £15,000.
- Scheme open to clubs with an active women's and/or girls' section, or those delivering disability cricket.
- First Grants Panel meeting scheduled for early February 2027. The fund closes on 30 September 2027, or earlier if the budget is exhausted.
- Green projects, such as solar panels, are now covered by a separate Tackling Climate Change Fund.

Full guidance notes are available on the CCB website. Eligible clubs are encouraged to submit an expression of interest via the ECB Investment Management System.

Want to discuss a facility project? Contact your DCO or CCB Facilities Officer Dave Atkinson

Other sources of funding

The CCBwebsite has a dedicated Facilities section, highlighting a range of ECB funding opportunities currently available to affiliated clubs:

Tackling Climate Change Fund – Supporting projects such as water capture, irrigation, solar energy, and drought and flood resilience.

Grass Pitch Improvement Fund – Supporting square and outfield improvements identified through Pitch Power reports.

Interest-Free Loan – Loans of up to £75,000, repayable over five years,

The website **also includes links to some external funding opportunities :**

- Crowdfunder – Promote your project to the wider community to secure a Sport England pledge of up to £15,000.
- Sport England Movement Fund – Up to £15,000 for projects that encourage people to become more physically active.
- Barclays Community Sport Fund – Supporting projects in areas of deprivation and initiatives that improve W&G participation.
- Landfill Communities Fund – Up to £75K - Use the postcode finder to check whether their location is eligible.
- Lancashire Line – A members' lottery where 50p in every £1 raised goes back to the club, plus monthly cash prizes of up to £1,000.

Tell us about your facility plans (and support needed) via our Survey















ECB National Programmes

What a 2026 we had – 4,073 children took part in All Stars and Dynamos sessions in club and community settings in Cheshire!

Thank you to all the Activators and host venues for giving children such a memorable experience.

Actions for Clubs > Winter 2026/27

1. Use up any remaining Store Credit by 31st December.
2. Identify your Activator(s) for 2027:
   - For existing Activators, ensure all pre-requisites (DBS, Activator e-learning, safeguarding) are complete
   - Ensure any **new** Activators are set up with an account on Clubspark and remove those no longer involved
3. Consider running 'keeping in touch' sessions – make your 2026 participants feel part of the wider club
4. Look out for ECB's winter Roadshow with further updates

Click here to join the CCB National Programmes Activator WhatsApp Group

CHESHIRE CRICKET



Reasons to get involved in 2027

This year, ECB celebrated 10 yeas since the launch of All Stars - 569,000 children have been part of the journey!

79 of Cheshire clubs (72%) delivered National Programmes in 2026, with more than 3,400 children engaged.

Output? Year-on-year growth in U9 teams across Cheshire (Play-Cricket), alongside a significant increase in girls' sections, with many clubs using Dynamos to launch their female playing offer.

Want to get involved? Complete our Expression of Interest to tell us which programmes you will run in 2027.

Case Study: Oulton Park CC

- Four years ago, OPCC had just six Under 9 players registered at the club.
- Through consistent delivery of All Stars Cricket, the club created a strong junior pathway, no more than 100 children engaged every Friday night.
- Club can now field 2 x U9 and 2 x U11 teams
- Engagement in National Programmes has helped to build a vibrant, family-focused club.

School coaching and competition

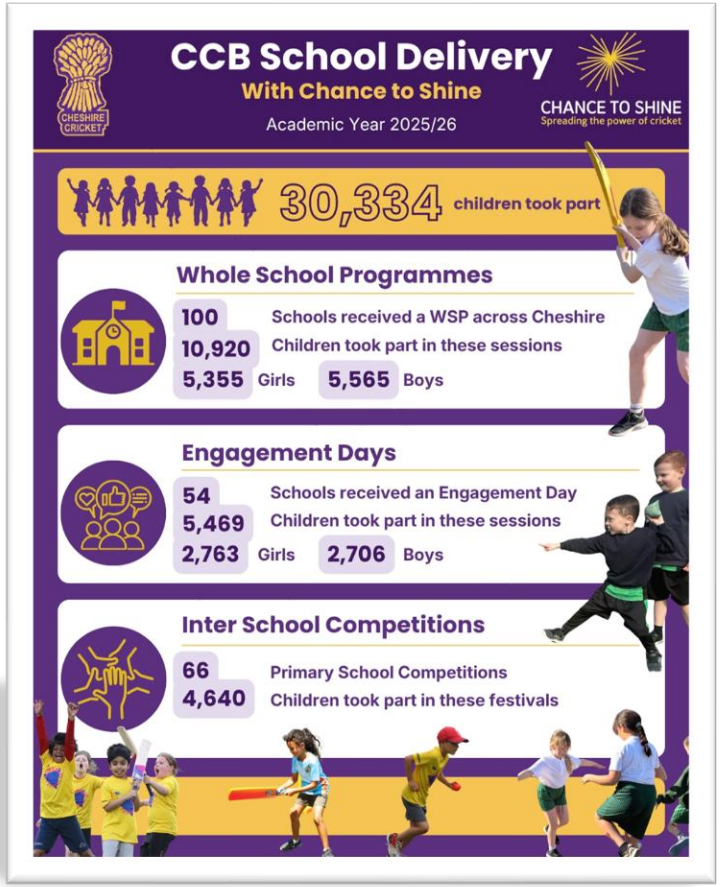
CCB delivered cricket to more than 30,000 children in 2025-26.

We are currently working in schools across the county, delivering free coaching in partnership with *Chance to Shine*.

How can your club take advantage?

- Contact your DCO to find out which schools we are coaching in – pass on any marketing material including posters.
- Follow the CCB School's X page and any local schools on social media – comment with information about your club.
- If you know of any schools looking for additional (paid) coaching then let us know – CCB have a few delivery slots left





Returning in 2027: Knight-Stokes Cup

- National hardball competition for state (non fee paying) secondary schools - County, Regional and National Rounds leading to a final at Lord's!
- 2026 Boys' competition was won by Altrincham Grammar. 37 Cheshire Schools took part in this year. Thanks to host clubs!

2027 Entry Form



Industry Icon

Vic Demain

Head Grounds Manager – Durham CCC

Guest Speaker at CAG EOS Seminar 2026!

Midseason Wicket Repairs

I was delighted to be asked to compose an article for inclusion in the next issue of The Cheshire Association of Grounds Managers magazine. These Associations are so special for me, in fact one of my first ambitions on arriving at Durham Cricket, was to form close links with the people in the local clubs. I was from down south and didn't know whether I would be accepted up north!

I was invited along to the Durham Groundsmans Association AGM. About half a dozen people attended, most of whom felt obliged because they were officers and hoping to get off the committee, but of course no one stood against them.

Speaking with a couple of those officers, Terry Charlton and Martin Stephenson, we decided to invite all the local people to come along for an evening at The Riverside Ground. Not many turned up, but we persevered and before long we were getting good numbers along to regular meetings.

It wasn't all about training and learning, the key was building up a network of local, likeminded people with a love of groundsmanship, who could call on each other for help. We had various presenters come along to talk about specialist subjects such as fertiliser, rolling and all things ECB. One particular evening of note was inviting the guys along the evening before a Test Match. They were delighted to walk out on the square, have a look at the pitch and comment on how their own grounds looked better!

CAG.org.uk

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Click here to view the latest CAG Newsletter or ask to join the CAG Facebook Page for regular updates

Grounds support for Cheshire clubs

Cheshire Association of Groundsmen (CAG) held its AGM in late October, with several new faces elected onto the committee.

The association is keen to hear from Cheshire affiliated clubs about the training, guidance and support they would like to access in 2027. Clubs are encouraged to complete this short survey to help shape future provision.

How to get involved

CAG has an active WhatsApp group connecting the Cheshire grounds community, providing an opportunity to share knowledge, best practice and useful information.
To join the group, click here.

Further resources, guidance and tools for club volunteers are available on the CCB Grounds webpage.

GMA Winter Maintenance Webinar

The Grounds Management Association (GMA) ran a series of webinars in early November focused on winter maintenance for cricket grounds. The sessions were led by GMA Regional Grounds Representative Andy Welsby and the slides can be accessed here.

Pitch Power – Improving Playing Surfaces across Cheshire

To better understand the quality of your square and outfield, clubs can request a *Pitch Power* assessment from one of our County Pitch Advisors.

Normally costing £150 plus mileage, bursaries of up to 100% are now available, thanks to funding from the Cheshire Clubs' Cricket Committee and CAG.

Since the scheme launched in 2024, 84 pitches have been assessed, with a further 43 Cheshire sites still eligible for a funded County Pitch Advisor visit.

Take advantage of the funded visits available and make Pitch Power part of your club's ground development plans.

To request a Pitch Power visit in 2027, click here.



Pitch Power – Recommendations for squares and outfields

SQUARE

Current PQS Score: ● Advanced - 45%

Square area							PQS Grade
Pests and Disease %	None Present	None Present	None Present	None Present	None Present	None Present	4
Grass	95	95	95	95	85	60	4
Grass Height (square)	15	15	15	15	15	3	4
Surface evenness	4	4	3	3	3	3	4
Weed coverage	5	5	5	5	0	10	2
Core profile	90	90	90	90	90	70	1
Thatch depth	3	3	3	3	3	3	2
Root break	No Root Break	No Root Break	No Root Break	No Root Break	No Root Break	No Root Break	4
Worm casts	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Undesirable Grass	0	10	10	10	5	20	4
Post match repairs - surface evenness	5						4
Pitch markings	Yes						4

Main observation(s) The square is in good condition with good grass coverage and low levels of thatch present. It does have an issue with a ridge on one end of the square which should ideally be addressed. The outfield has suffered from the prolonged dry summer and this has impacted the PQS score. Consideration should be given to steps to improve the outfield. More information can be found in the maintenance recommendations section of this report, and by following the links to the GMA Toolkit.

Short term - Ensure height of cut is within recommendations for square and outfield. Slightly increase the frequency of verticutting to maintain low thatch levels on the square.

Medium term - Consider scarification and overseeding of the outfield to reduce thatch and help the outfield recover from the very dry summer.

Long term - Use a contractor to address levels on the square which should help to eradicate the ridge present at one end of the square. In addition, there would be merit in addressing some of the worst undulations in outfield if and when budget permits.

Cheshire Clubs using Pitch Power

Clubs are using their reports to inform ground development and improve playing surfaces. Stockport Trinity CC, Old Parkonians CC and Appleton CC (The Grange Sports Club) are good examples of this, while other clubs are incorporating recommendations into their longer-term development plans.

Grounds managers are also making practical, often small, changes as a result of the assessments, with players reporting positive improvements to their playing facilities.

Disability Cricket – taking the game to more people in Cheshire

At CCB, we are passionate about Disability Cricket and are classed as 'leading organisation' in the field by ECB.

We support a wide range of playing offers across clubs, communities and our Talent Pathway so people in Cheshire with a disability can confidently say: "cricket is a game for me".

Community Playing Offers

- Lord's Taverners Super 1s - Free sessions for young people with a disability aged 8-25
- Focus on playing and leadership skills
- Seven hubs operating in Cheshire – See next slide

ECB Champion Clubs

- Inclusive coaching for people of all ages
- Grant funding and playing equipment from ECB
- Updates to scheme in 2027 – more info soon!
- 10 Cheshire Clubs currently run the programme:

For more info about Disability Cricket, visit the CCB website.



Cheshire's Champion Clubs

Chester Boughton Hall CC, Stockport Georgians CC, Oulton Park CC, Bowdon Vale CC, Macclesfield CC, Caldy CC, Birkenhead Park CC, Warrington CC, Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge CC

MORE THAN CRICKET - The social impact of Super 1s

INCLUSION & BELONGING

"My boys have struggled finding somewhere they can fit in and feel included... Super 1s gives them somewhere they can do something they love in an environment where they aren't forced to mask or worried about fitting in."

PARENT FEEDBACK

FRIENDSHIP & CONNECTION

"Having disabilities can be isolating. These games help the boys form good friendship groups. It makes them feel they are joining in society and doing the same as other teenage groups."

PARENT FEEDBACK

CONFIDENCE & WELLBEING

"Super 1s cricket is the highlight of my week... Cricket has made me feel good about myself and what I can achieve. I feel so much happier since I started going to the sessions."

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY

"Luke wanted to join a cricket team like his older brother... Super 1s means he feels included, rather than left out. He has also been working on skills he struggles with, which is really helping his coordination and balance."

PARENT FEEDBACK

A SAFE, SUPPORTIVE SPACE

"He said that it became part of him to go to Super 1s... this is the only time he experienced such a friendly and positive environment with any team sports... he would not miss a session."

PARENT FEEDBACK

CONFIDENCE BEYOND THE PITCH

"Navdar... has always felt so included. He was proud to tell his classmate that he plays cricket outside school and has new friends. Cricket has helped him to develop his interactions and build his confidence."

PARENT FEEDBACK

Friendship • Belonging • Confidence • Wellbeing • Opportunity



Cheshire Cobras

Cheshire Cobras are the county's visually impaired (VI) cricket team. In 2026 they competed in the Blind Cricket England & Wales (BCEW) Midland Development League.

The Cobras are looking for new players to join their squad for 2027 and also for some 20-30 over friendly fixtures against Cheshire affiliated clubs.

Interested? Contact secretary@cheshirecobras.co.uk

Cheshire's Disability Talent Pathway

CCB currently run four pan-disability Pathway teams – 2 x D40 (hardball) teams and 2 x Super 9s (incrediball) teams.

We are looking for new players to join our squads for the 2027 season. Indoor training is already underway!

Do you know someone with a disability who would like to play representative cricket? Click here to learn more about the Disability Pathway eligibility criteria, or contact CCB Disabilities Manager Owen Williamson.



Pathway Observation Sessions

An opportunity for boys and girls to explore the CCB Player Pathway, showcase their skills and be considered for future development opportunities.

Who can attend?

- Players who have not previously attended the CCB Pathway, or have not attended within the last 12 months.
- Players must be confident and proficient with a hardball

.

What to expect?

- Free observation sessions to showcase your ability.
- Opportunities to be considered for future CCB courses (including District and Excellence).
- Potential invitations to District and County Age Group assessment sessions.
- Children can book one or more sessions – there is no charge but booking is essential (no walk ins)

When / Where?

- Upcoming sessions at Cheadle Laurus on 9 January
- Scan the QR code or click here for more information





What's next?

- **Online Development Forum 2** – Thursday 12th November – feel free to invite club colleagues
- **1:1 Club sessions** – Please contact your local DCO to arrange a meeting
- **First Aid Courses** – Complete our Expression of Interest form if you'd like to a host a course
- **Club Participation Trackers –** please return this month
- **Entry forms** for Men's County Cup competitions including Cheshire Cup and U19 T20